



What is the Regional Stewardship Program?

The Regional Stewardship Program is a new initiative that seeks to promote regional and statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, creative governance, and civic participation through public engagement activities initiated by comprehensive university faculty and staff.

To help accomplish this goal, campus administrators are expected to design and implement programs that align institutional priorities, resources, and infrastructure to support their missions as stewards of place, and to create partnerships and undertake engagement activities that address regional and state needs.

How does the program work?

The program provides funding for the comprehensive universities in three areas.

- Infrastructure funds support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships necessary to sustain stewardship activities.
- Regional grant funds support comprehensive university efforts to build intellectual capacity in targeted priority areas.
- Stewardship initiative funds support specific public engagement activities at the universities that improve economic prosperity, quality of life, and civic participation in the region or state.

What is the rationale behind state funding?

Public engagement programs, like basic research, are cost centers for postsecondary institutions. Programs that target the needs of public schools, small businesses, and government and nonprofit agencies require the support of public funds. The Regional Stewardship Program provides funding to stimulate that work. The benefits of the program include improved economic prosperity, quality of life, and civic participation within comprehensive university service regions and across the state.

Questions to Ask Yourself about Stewardship of Place

1. Is the commitment to stewardship clearly visible at my college/university? Is the concept of stewardship incorporated into:
 - the institution's mission?
 - the institution's vision?
 - the strategic priorities?
 - the criteria for hiring faculty, staff, and administrative leaders?
 - promotion and tenure policies?
2. Does the board include a demonstrated effectiveness in stewardship as a criterion for selection and evaluation of campus leadership?
3. Does my college/university have a systematic approach to inventory and assess stewardship activities?
4. Does my college/university have an external advisory group or groups with an active role in identifying stewardship priorities?
5. What contributions can I make as a regent/trustee or as a community leader to advance stewardship activities?